

**Statement of PPL Montana  
Before the House Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee  
Of the Montana House of Representatives  
In Support of House Bill No. 24  
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Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I am David Hoffman, Manager of External Affairs for PPL Montana — a wholesale generator of electricity in Montana with 1,200 megawatts of generating capacity from coal-fired and hydroelectric facilities located throughout Montana.

PPL Montana employs about 500 Montanans and supplies electricity to a variety of wholesale and retail customers in the state. We have received national recognition for our environmental and industrial safety programs.

As we look to the future, we believe it is important to develop options for the continued use of Montana's coal resources in environmentally responsible ways. The coal resources we have can make Montana a vital component of a reliable and secure energy future for the country.

One of the issues the legislature may want to address as we work toward that future is climate change. This issue has implications for all Montanans. For owners of fossil-fuel power plants, technology is an essential consideration. There simply is no technology available for use today that can capture and remove carbon dioxide from plant emissions. One of the more promising options for the future is sequestration. However, that technology is still in the very early stages of research and development and faces many obstacles in its deployment, including the absence of legal rights to lay the necessary pipelines through properties owned by others.

PPL Montana supports House Bill 24. House Bill 24 and others that provide tax incentives to help develop the technologies necessary to capture greenhouse gases and provide the necessary legal rights to install pipelines to carry the greenhouse gases to areas where they can be sequestered, will lay the groundwork for an infrastructure that could support carbon dioxide reductions at some time in the future.

I can't emphasize enough that technological solutions (other than increased energy efficiency) to reduce or capture carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants that burn fossil fuels are not available at this time.

The real solution for climate change lies in a multi-faceted approach that includes new power generation technology, renewable energy, energy efficiency, conservation and carbon sequestration.

PPL Montana is participating in a number of research and development efforts, including the Big Sky Carbon Sequestration project.

House Bill 24 will provide a framework to make sequestration more feasible in Montana. House Bill 24 will open opportunities for sequestration projects that would use a pipeline network to transport it from sources such as power plants to enhanced oil recovery locations and deep underground storage sites. This Bill addresses many of the obstacles to implementing such a pipeline network.

I encourage the members of the Committee to give this important legislation your consideration and a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 24.